

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-34 are pending in the present application. Claim 33 is withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-4 and 6-32 have been amended and claim 34 has been added. It is submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated February 5, 2010.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 5-32 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112 2nd paragraph rejection and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as indicated on page 4, item 8 of the Action.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5 and claims 1-4 and 6-32 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112 2nd paragraph rejection. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4 and 6-32, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

New Claim 34

New claim 34 includes the subject matter of original claim 1 and recites the feature of “*a switching mechanism for selectively switching between a feeding state by the action of the feeding mechanism and the normal use state where the feeding state is released while holding the transfer face in contact with the transferred object.*” This feature is supported by, for example, the description of the specification (page 42, bottom line to page 43, line 12).

Figs. 4 and 6 of Samuelson disclose two different states of a dispenser 10. In other words, in Fig. 6, an application surface 41 projects from a housing 20 to contact a substrate to which an adhesive should be transferred. On the other hand, in Fig. 4, the application surface 41 is retracted into the housing 20, and thus, the application surface 41 cannot contact the substrate. Therefore, Samuelson cannot switch between the state of Fig. 6 and the state of Fig. 4 while holding the application surface 41 in contact with the substrate.

Also, Figs. 3 and 4 of Taylor disclose two different states of a tape dispenser. In other words, in Fig. 4, the surface of an application roller 27 projects from a housing 1 to contact a surface to which a tape 36 should be transferred. On the other hand, in Fig. 3, the tape application roller 27 is retracted in the housing 1, and thus, the surface of the application roller 27 cannot contact the surface. Therefore, Taylor cannot switch between the state of Fig. 4 and the state of Fig. 3 while holding the surface of the application roller 27 in contact with the surface.

Accordingly, claim 34 patentably distinguishes over the Examiner’s cited references.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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